

CDXC newsletter

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CDXC 1989

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Editor: G3XTT

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR Since the last newsletter most members will have been glued to their rigs to work XF4L, 3D2CR, the FO operations, T33JS, and others. All these potential new countries are getting to be hard work! Martti Laine OH2BH deserves special mention. Not only did he do a super job along with the others at XF4L, but he returned only to go off to S0, and will be in 4J1 again at the end of the month. Somewhere along the line he managed to find time to be inducted to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. It's a pity the UK doesn't currently seem to have its own equivalent of the likes of OH2BH DJ6SI F2CW and others, though a few CDXC members seem to at least be making the effort. Of course, CDXC has several overseas members who have a marvellous track record of DXpeditioning - DJ9ZB DK9KX F6EXV ON5NT and K3ZO. Hans and Paul in particular have made a lot of us happy recently with their efforts from 3D2CR and FO respectively.

T33JS and 3D2CR were both difficult ones to work, though the operators did their best for Europe. However, it doesn't help that all these new ones seem to be directly over the north pole! All the current signs seem to be that the 4WOPA operation will be thrown out by the ARRL, which will be a blow to your editor among others. Let's hope we get some more operations like last year's from 3W to put the top ten rare ones on the air. In fact, our own Countries Wanted list is now getting rather out of date. Things like 3W, C9 and KH5 have fallen well down the list in the last year, while others such as CE0X and 9G should be back on the list. Hopefully after the Annual Review Meeting there will be a volunteer to take this on and bring it fully up-to-date.

What do you think CDXC ought to be doing over the next year or so? No doubt a number of ideas will come out at the A.R.M. and it will be up to the new Committee to set them in motion. But don't sit back and complain if they don't do what you want - get involved, and give a helping hand if possible.

Finally, do take a look at the notes from G4JVG and consider whether you can come to the next social "do" or get involved in any CDXC contesting activities.

73 de Don, G3XTT

NOTES FROM G4JVG, SOCIAL SECRETARY

A group of mainly CDXC members hopes to participate in this year's CQ World Wide Phone contest in October from Jersey. We hope to use the call GJ6UW and enter the multi-operator, single-transmitter category. Antennas should include 160, 80 and 40 metre dipoles no less than 250 feet high and about 600 feet above the sea from our cliff-top location. On the HF bands, we hope to use a 4 element monobander on 20 metres and two element cubical quads for 10 and 15 metres. We hope to beat the former UK multi-single record, which is held by GW8GT, in the year that the GW8GT club station is celebrating its 10th anniversary! We understand the GW8GT group will be doing their best to make sure that they continue to hold the record, so there should be some good competition this year. If you would like to join the group, please contact G4JVG (tel: 0734-722538) or G3XTT (tel: 0734-724192) as soon as possible. If you can't come over to GJ, there may be enough interest that CDXC can also mount a "team" entry as we did last year. This requires at least one team member to be in another continent - anyone going to be operating single-op from outside Europe?

The next CDXC dinner will be held on Saturday 17th June at The Grosvenor, 109 Kidmore Road, Caversham, near Reading, meeting at 6.00pm for dinner at 6.30pm. This area of Caversham is generally known as Caversham Heights. This venue has been chosen instead of Ye Olde Swan at Thames Ditton, which has been used on several occasions in the past, because it is hoped that it will encourage some members in the South West and South Wales to make the journey. Reading is about three-quarters of an hour to an hour closer to those of you approaching from the South-East from the M4 than Thames Ditton is. The earlier meeting time should also help those who have to make a long journey. Present at the dinner should be Fred, ZL3QN, who is a keen DXer and on the DXCC Honor Roll.

The Grosvenor is a Toby carvery, with a dining area large enough to accommodate the whole of the Club membership, if necessary! Prices are around £6.25 for a main course and dessert; starters, coffee and wine (if required) extra, but all are quite reasonably priced.

Please let Steve, G4JVG, know by Friday 2nd June if you are coming, so that a large enough table can be booked. Either write to "Penworth" Tokers Green Lane, Reading, RG4 9EB, or tel: 0734-722538 evenings or weekends.

Directions to the Grosvenor from the M4

Whether you are approaching Reading from the west (junction 12), the south (junction 11) or the east (junction 10 followed by A329(M)), follow signs to Reading after leaving motorway. Before entering town centre, you should see signs to Caversham. Once you have crossed the River Thames you are in Caversham. Then follow signs to Oxford and Woodcote (A4074). (Beware of following signs to Oxford in Reading itself, as there are two roads to Oxford, the A329 is the wrong road).

Continue along A4074. The road is called St. Peter's Hill at first, and later Woodcote Road. You are in a 30mph area. Look out for a sign saying you are entering "Mapledurham (Chazey Heath)" - it is on the right hand side of the road, oddly enough.

After about 1 - 1.5 miles, just as you are leaving a built-up area (and the end of the 30mph speed restriction) turn right into Shepherd's Lane. Go to the end of Shepherd's Lane (less than quarter mile) and turn right into Kidmore Road. The Grosvenor is a few hundred yards along on the right.

If you are approaching Reading from the north:

- then approach on the A4074 from Oxford, Wallingford or Woodcote.

About 2 miles after the small village of Cane End there is a pub on the left called the Pack Horse. A few hundred yards further there is another pub, the Pack Saddle. A few hundred yards after the Pack Saddle is a turning on the left, just after entering a 30mph speed restriction, which is Shepherd's Lane.

Go to the end of Shepherd's Lane (less than quarter mile) and turn right into Kidmore Road. The Grosvenor is a few hundred yards along on the right.

There is car parking at the front of the Grosvenor and if that is full more at the side and rear of the building.

HF CONVENTION The RSGB HF Convention will be held on 1st October, with the usual get-together the previous evening for those who are staying overnight. F6EXV and other leading DXers will be attending, so once again it should be an excellent event. The venue will be the Belfry Hotel, as in previous years.

The Clipperton DX Convention will be held in Paris on the weekend prior to the HF Convention, and is always worth a visit. And the FOC dinner takes place on 7th October.

If you find all these potentially new DXCC "countries" rather silly, as some do, then ponder this: apparently a strict interpretation of the rules, as they are now written, which refer to "separation by water" rather than "separation by sea", would allow some of the islands in the American Great Lakes to count for new ones! On a more realistic note Chod Harris, VP2ML, writing in "The DX Magazine", ponders on the prospects for Walvis Bay, North Korea, Palestine, the three autonomous regions into which Belgium will be divided within the next ten years, and the likelihood of further splits in the Caribbean (eg Barbuda from Antigua).

I hope you all find something in these pages which is of interest. Contributions have been sparse again, so I am grateful to David Whitaker and, as always, to Ian, G4LJF. As for me, it's back to pondering on antennas. I have discovered recently that stacking a 6-metre beam above my tribander doesn't do anything for the tribander's performance (well, it does - it affects it quite badly!). Even with no 6-metre beam my tribander leaves a lot to be desired, so now it's a case of what will give me improved performance while not driving my xyl to distraction.

73 de Don, G3XTT

THE SONY ICF 7600DS IN MADEIRA (By David Whitaker, CT3/BRS25429)

Last September in DX News Sheet Laurie, G3UML, gave an interesting report on his "radio" holiday in St. Lucia. Laurie mentioned taking with him a Sony short wave receiver. This interested me so, on his return home, I wrote to him to find out more about this receiver. About this time I was thinking of taking a short holiday myself. So it came about that I purchased the Sony ICF 7600D portable receiver and set off for CT3. The Sony ICF 7600 has been on the market for a few years now but I am not sure when it was adapted to receive SSB signals. It is a portable transistorised general coverage receiver covering FM 76-108MHz and LW/MW/SW 153-29995kHz. It has a quartz controlled PLL synthesiser system using a microcomputer to make pinpoint tuning easy. The tuned frequency is digitally displayed. There are four choices of tuning - direct, pre-set, scan and manual. A maximum of ten stations can be pre-set, and there is a band-select function to search the broadcast bands. There is a timer standby function to receive a broadcast programme at a desired time. Finally, there are three different power sources: internal battery, mains, or via a car battery. Approximate dimensions are 7.4 x 4.8 x 1.3 inches and weight, including batteries, is 640g or 1.4lb. I was able to slip the set into my overcoat pocket! Accessories supplied are one earphone, a SW compact antenna, AC-240 power adaptor, an excellent wave handbook giving frequencies and times of transmission from each country to the various continents, an antenna connector and a carrying case.

My week's holiday in Madeira took place between December 7-14th 1988. On arrival at Funchal airport we were quickly whisked away to our hotel on the east of the island. Soon I was unpacked and out came the Sony! I must say, the telescopic antenna on the set itself is quite good but, for improved reception, the use of the supplied compact antenna is a must. It certainly gave me an extra two "S" points on 10, 20 and 40 metres. I was troubled with mains interference on 15 metres, whilst 80 metres was pretty useless! The SSB function does take a short time to get used to after presetting the desired frequency. The use of the fine tuning dial can get you to resolve the SSB signal quite easily, and the SSB signal remains very stable with no drifting whatsoever. Performance-wise there was little to choose between the bands. 20 metres was open every night with an excellent short path to VK. Some JA's were heard on 40 metres whilst 10 metres, although disappointing in the direction of the States, was very good to Europe. My holiday QTH actually looked straight out to Europe, but Stateside was blocked by the local mountains, hi! In my week's stay on Madeira I did approximately 12 hours listening on the Sony. In that time I logged 88 countries in 30 CQ zones. 55 countries were heard on 28MHz, 19 on 21MHz, 57 on 14MHz, 45 on 7MHz and 10 countries on 3.8MHz. Best DX heard: On 40m 8P9EM, ZD7CW, TU2QQ and two CE's; On 20m UA0 (z.19), TZ6, YB0, TL8, 9X5, FR5, 5V7 and XE2; 10m produced 6W8, P40, 5U7, YV6, VK6, 5T5 and D4. The last station I heard from CT3 was BY5RT on 10m. Some 40 "C" stations were logged, about half of these being on 10m. These included G3MCS on 20, GW4BLE on 10, G3ZAY on 15 (sorry Martin, you were only 3 x 3), G4IUF the only G heard on 80, and G3SNN 5 x 9 on 40.

Apart from radio, my xyl and I spent a most enjoyable holiday on Madeira. We toured the island by coach and were fascinated by the change of scenery at every turn. Funchal, the capital, is very attractive, with houses nestling in the hills which overlook the town. There are some good shops and a nice promenade alongside the harbour. Madeira seems to have a glut of five star hotels. We sampled afternoon tea at Reids and nearly had to take out a second mortgage to pay! The weather in December is very pleasant. The south of the island gets most of the sun and when we left the temperature was nudging 70F which is not bad a week before Christmas!

I can certainly recommend the Sony ICF 7600. If you don't want the amateur bands on your holiday there is always the BBC World Service to tune in to. I made sure I did not miss the football results, hi!

DX Calendar (Tnx G4DYO)

Til May 31	NA-85 by W4/DL2BCH	Til May 31	A25/G4HZR
Til Jun	VP8BRT S Orkney	Til Jun	J6LAH/8R1
Til mid-Jun	VP8BWL by G3NKQ	Til Aug	IA8A & IJ8CS
Til Oct 10	JX7DFA	Til Dec 31	UBA SWL Competition
Til Aug '90	WOZX/KL7 Adak Is	May	UI-U and UI-Z
May	5R8AL QRV again ??	May	T5 by 5Z4BH ?
May 14-Jun 7	ZK1XV by VK2BCH	May 15	New BY5 stations
May 19-28	IY0ONU Polvese Is	May 20-?	T2 by KN6J/VK9NS
May 20-1 Jun	GM Islands by G's	May 22-23	NA-81 VE1APB??
May 22-26	KC6 Belau by JG1RVN	May 22-28	UA4WGR/UW2F
May 22-30	M-V ISLAND	May 25-30	NA-02 WV5M/VP5
May 26-28	AS-56 Danjo Is	May 27-28	P3AA for WPX Ctst
May 27-28	Ibero American Test	May 27-28	CQ WW WPX CW Ctst
May 27-29	GB4SRS Steephholm Is	May 28	K01F in Harrogate
May 29-Jun 4	7S6DO	May 31-Jun 3	R1W by PA ops
May 31-Jun 14	CT3 by G group	Jun	EU-87 by SM5KI
Jun	3V by DL4EBN ??	Jun	RJ0RYZ Obl.042
Jun	FR5FO by F6FYA	Jun-Dec 1990	ZM prefix by ZLs
Jun 1-Dec 1	JW7FD Bear Island	Jun 3-4	IARU R1 Field Day
Jun 3-17 ?	JW by WA4ZEL/VK9NL	Jun 4-Jul 2	TK/HB9CJC
Jun 6	YL Activity Day	Jun 7-13	FS by W4 group
Jun 8-13	EU-94 Glenan Is	Jun 8-15	5W1GY by VK2BCH
Jun 10-11	WW S.America Test	Jun 10-11	OZ DX GROUP MEETING
Jun 16-Jul 7	VK2BCH/KH8	Jun 17-18	All Asia SSB
Jun 20	F89 prefix	Jun 24	EU-42 DL5XAS/P
Jun 24-25	RSGB 1.8MHz test	Jun end	9U & 9X by 5Z4BH
Jul	6Z by EL stations	Jul	XE100TIJ
Jul	JDs by KD7P/NH2	Jul	STO by PA3CXC???
Jul 1	Canada Day test	Jul 1-2	YV SSB test
Jul 1-28	ZF2 by Ws	Jul 1-31	F89 prefix
Jul 2	OH stns on 18/24mHz	Jul 4-20	NA-09 by FF6KMH
Jul 6	YL Activity Day	Jul 8-9	IARU Contest
Jul 8-15	Flannan Is by G's	Jul 8-Aug 8	Rotuma by VK2BCH ??
Jul 15-16	HK SSB/CW Test	Jul 15-16	SEAnet CW Test
Jul 15-16	AGCW DL Test	Jul 19-22	La Blanquilla YY5LB
Jul 20-26	TY1SA by TR8SA ?	Jul 21-30	IY0ONU Minore Is
Jul 28	TZ6VV QRV again	Jul 29-30	YV CW Contest

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

It has been a busy Dx time since the last News Letter, what with the superb XF4L expedition then my trip to Visalia California for the DX Convention.

What a superb job Marty and the gang did from XF4. I met the team at Visalia, all looking a bit weary after their 48,000 QSO's! LJF managed to get them on 10 through 40 SSB and 15 through 40 CW. I did hear them very weakly one morning on 3795, but they were only hearing W's. I wonder if anyone in the Club worked them on 80M?

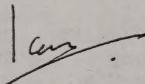
My thanks to you all for the overwhelming response to the questionnaire on the Club's future. Thank you also for your letters and points of view. It would seem that most of us are in agreement with the Committee, although there have been a few who would prefer the Club to be known as the British Dx Association. Only one member so far has voted against becoming affiliated to RSGB.

Anyway, by the time you have read this, we will have had the A.R.M., and the decision will have been taken on our future and in the hands of the elected Committee.

Whether I remain part of the Committee remains to be seen, but whatever, I would like to wish those who will be running the Club during the next year every success. They will have a sound membership behind them, and I see no reason why the Club should not continue to expand and flourish.

I hope that you enjoy the summary of the Visalia Convention, and I would also like you to give serious consideration to the Packet DX Cluster System that I describe. I think that it has a lot of potential within CDXC, and I for one would like to give it a go. How successful it will be will depend on the input of the end users, but it may well be workable from London to the West Country through the existing Net Rom network, providing that we can get permission to set up in effect a Bulletin Board on 144.675.

73 and Happy Holidays



Ian G4LJF Secretary

The DX Packet Cluster System

by Ian Shepherd G4LJF

Whilst over at the Visalia Dx Convention in April, I was able to get first hand experience of the up and coming Dx alert system that is now in widespread use in many parts of the USA by DX Clubs.

The basis of the system is 2M packet network with a host node that runs the Cluster software, surrounded by end users who feed the host with Dx information.

The host will require a TNC, a radio, a computer with a hard disk, and have to be switched on 24 hours a day, whilst all the end user requires is a TNC, terminal and a radio. A dumb terminal is sufficient.

The end users simply connect to the host, and remain connected waiting for announcements to be sent to them. Each time someone puts out any info, their computer will beep, and a message will appear on the screen. e.g.

ZALAA 14195 listening up 200-230 (Time) (announcing station's call).

The end user can interrogate the host to obtain reports on previous announcements. The database can be interrogated in many ways. Just some of the commands are shown below:

SH/DX will display the last 5 DX reports.

SH/DX/10 15 will show that last 10 15 meter reports.

SH/DX/10 20 XF 4 will show the last 10 reports of activity from XF4 on 20 metres.

SH/H (prefix) calculates beam heading to that country.

SH/M (prefix) shows MUF and LUF to that country.

SH/Sun (prefix) shows sunrise and sunset for that country.

SH/W shows the last five WWV solar reports.

Talk (call)(message) sends a short message to another user.

SE/H lets other users know you are at your rig.

SE/NO lets other users know you are away from your rig.

ANNOUNCE (message) makes a general announcement to all

DX (freq)(call)(message) enters a DX alert into the system.

SE/Con lets you see the calls of all currently connected to the system.

Bye exist the system.

The main advantages of the system over the voice alerting method is that you do not have to be present when an announcement is made. You can come back to your shack, and call up what has been put out. Also you can find out a lot about the DX operator by calling up all reports on his activity. For Example, a list of all the reports on say ZS8MI would show that he favours a particular frequency to operate on, and a particular time too.

39 E 2 T O R R C C H H H H H H
O O / / 6 6 1 3 4 5 5 9
Z X G T E W K P

Call Sign	Name	Phone Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
DJ9ZB	Franz	(0104978224713)										
DK9KX	Hans											
G2BJK	Graham	(0934 742568)	x		x	x			x		x	x
G3COJ	Brian	(06285 30425)	x					x	x	x	x	x
G3FKM	John	(021 429 3200)	None required									
G3GIQ	Henry	(01 567 6389)										
G3HTA	John	(03632 3333)										
G3IFB	Frank	(0452 713792)	x			x			x		x	x
G3KMA	Roger	(09905 8224)	None required									
G3LOP	Roger	(01 642 4956)										
G3MIR	Dave	(0626 890327)	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x
G3NOF	Don	(0935 24956)						x				
G3OLU	John	(0376 23429)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
G3OZF	Don	(0296 748354)										x
G3RUR	Tony	(01 890 0968)	x			x						x
G3VKW	Keith	(04446 41000)	x			x						
G3VXZ	Mike	(0628 27350)	x					x	x	x	x	
G3XTT	Don	(0734 724192)	x									x
G3YMC	Dave	(0344 421006)	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x
G3ZAY	Martin	(0223 311714)										
G4ADD	Bill	(0670 88259)	x					x				
G4EDG	Steve	(0392 216579)	x						x		x	x
G4GED	Dave	(01 578 4484)	x	x		x	x	x	x			
G4IUF	Mike	(0423 870375)		x		x	x					
G4LJF	Ian	(0734 780022)	x									x
G4NXG	Alan		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
G4STH	Tim	(0749 813627)	x			x						
G4SVB	Tony	(0825 872599)	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x
G4YAO	Brian	(03632 3506)	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
G4YLO	Hazel	(0749 813627)	x		x							
G0ABI	Peter	(0647 52520)	x		x		x					x
G0AEQ	Ray	(0990 28618)	x				x				x	x
G0ANP	Dave	(0963 51015)	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x
G0HSD	Andrew	(0296 748383)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		Ext.362)										
GM3YOR	Drew			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
GW3AHN	Tom											
GW3CDP	Denzil									x		x
GW4BKG	Steve	(0656 840204)	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x
GW4BLE	Steve	(0633 55261)								x		
GW0BIC	Alan	(0600 6584)	x			x				x		x
BR525429	David	(0423 67755)	None required									
Geoff Watts			None required									

Notes:

1. There are 321 Countries on the ARRL list
2. Honor roll starts at 312 Countries confirmed
3. Only includes those members who have provided inform

tion.

Also, you don't have to have one ear on the 2M rig whilst trying to extract that crucial report from a weak station you are working on HF at the time! All you will hear is an alerting beep from your computer, followed by the message appearing upon your screen. Ever turned the volume down on your 2M rig whilst a boring rag chew is going on, only to find you missed a DX alert? All that is behind you with this system. No need to repeat the info to those who didn't catch it all the first time either.

The system can also be used as a mail box amongst the users, which could be useful for the DXNS Ed!

I would like to see the Cluster System up and running in the UK. I have the facilities to set up a node at G4LJF, once it is decided to go ahead and purchase the software which would cost \$130 plus shipping and duty. (End users will require no additional software other than that supplied with their TNC).

We would have to get permission to run in effect a bulletin board on 144.675, which might prove difficult. A GB7 call would have to be issued and licensed for unattended operation. 144.675 would be desirable for two reasons. Firstly .650 is too busy for the system to work well, and secondly .675 has a superb net rom network established, which would allow end users who would normally be out of range, to use the system. (They would have to use the Check (on) command in order to remain connected to the host via net rom during periods of low activity).

I think that the launch costs of such a system should be not left to one individual, and perhaps the initial costs could be spread by asking those interested to make a contribution. Perhaps the Chiltern DX Club might consider participating in the launch?

Eventually, other nodes would spring up serving other areas, each node being interconnected via a backbone link on another band, such as 70 cms, or perhaps LF. However, with a single antenna on top of the tower at G4LJF, and the use of net roms links, I am sure that the one node could cover from SE London through to Wales and the West Country, and also up into the Midlands.

I think it is worth a shot, especially with G4DYO now on packet. Bren would be able to contribute a lot into the system with all the info that he receives daily by phone and other means. The system is rapidly gaining favour in the USA, and the Southern California DX Club Dx repeater has all but died as a means of alerting others to DX info. They have mostly gone over to the Cluster System.

I shall be writing to RSGB to sound out the possibility of setting the system up on .675, and meanwhile, I would appreciate letters of support in order to get permission, and also to judge the level of interest.

The 1989 Visalia Dx Convention

This year was the fortieth anniversary of this prestigious event, held at the small town of Visalia California, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. This year the convention was hosted by the NCDXC.

Having flown to Los Angeles, I spent two days acclimatizing at the home of Ray Harper N6DKP, where I was savagely and repeatedly attacked by his new kitten "TK", who had a super pedigree, but the temperament of a monster! However, the use of Rays 7 element home brew tribander and a Henry 3K Classic, made up for all the scratches!

We had a leisurely drive up to the Holiday Inn where the convention is held, and arrived at 3 pm on the Friday. The repeater network on the way up North was full of familiar DX voices, and it looked like the event was going to be full to capacity again. Indeed it was.

Even whilst checking in, there were a multitude of familiar faces who said hello, and after a quick round of 'shooting the breeze', we changed and went to the cocktail party hosted by Chod Harris VP2ML and his DX Bulletin.

Now on the flight over, I had watched the film "Working Girl", which showed Beverly Griffiths and Harrison Ford downing Tequila Golds, so I decided that this might be the drink to try. Well they had it, and after a couple or more, I realized why Harrison had to carry Beverly home (to bed)!

However, a Birthday dinner had been arranged for me that evening, so I pulled myself together and switched to mineral water.

I met quite a number of other Europeans, such as I8MPO, HV2VO, OZ8RO, and of course Marty Lane and the crew from XF4L.

The dinner party was excellent, being held at the Village Press restaurant which is of an outstandingly high standard, with the most leasing decor. I sat next to Hoppy W7IVX, and we chewed over a few ideas as to how I could make my 80M 5 sloper array more effective. He came up with a novel idea which I will only tell you about if it works!

After dinner we went to the disco bar which is invaded by wild women from as far as 50 miles away each weekend, as it is one of the few entertainment spots for miles around. K5VT Vince Thompson was there, as he was two years previously, and after a good natter about expeditioning and many Tequila Gold's later, I crawled into bed around 4 am!

At 7.30 the alarm went. Do ever get that feeling you made a mistake? After a long long shower I grabbed my note pad and made for the first talk which was by KD6AZ on DX Packet Networks. This

was much along the lines of the other article that I have submitted to the News Letter, and he illustrated the number of users, currently over 80 in the San Francisco area. On the weekend of the CQWW, it could be seen that around 1 DX alert per minute was being fed into the system!

The next lecture was on Beam Antenna Wind Survival by W6QHS. I am told that this was one of the best presentations there, which I really ought to have seen in view of my disaster with the hurricane, but neither mind nor body was up to it, and so I retired to the coffee shop for a much needed intake of caffeine!

There then followed the Contest Forum chaired by Jim Niger N6TJ - you know Jim...he's the guy who sends CW eight times faster than LJF can receive, even without Tequila Gold! (Jim ops D44BC in contests).

The theme was contest ethics. For instance, is it fair that a single entry op uses the Dx Cluster system. No it's is not, for that becomes a multi op entry, the other dozens of stations doing the spotting. However, how do you control it?

N6AA then gave a most interesting presentation on a computer study that he has been doing analyzing contest log entries. He has computerized a large selection of logs that have been volunteered, and as a result produced a database of unique calls, and possible calls. The log sheets are then compared to the database, and an accuracy check produced. A list of unique calls is produced together with a list of possible calls.

An analysis of the last CQWW showed that 14-15 thousand stations took part, of whom 4 thousand submit logs while the rest play. In the phone contest, the top entries who submitted logs for analysis made 2-3 % errors in logging call signs, whilst many entries had 8-10 % errors!

In the CW test, one letter wrong was taken as an error. In 1987, the best had 6-9 % errors, whilst many had 8-14 % errors. In 1988, errors were averaging 10-15 % .

The results of this study show that there is reason to be concerned over the validity of some of high scoring entries. It might not be significant, but one of the top entries last year that broke many records, refused to submit its logs for analysis!

There then there followed an SSE contest for those present. Each person was given a log sheet, and had-to tear round the room shouting "QRZ Contest" and logging as many people as he could during a ten minute period. It was like a street shouting match with people screaming at each other like madmen. Remind you of the real thing? Unfortunately it was not until I was two minutes into the test that I realized that I was supposed to be J6DX and not G4LJF! Needless to say I did not win the prize, which was a digital voice keyer.

This part of the Convention was closed by a panel of well known expeditions and testers being asked questions. To the question as to whether they preferred callers to give just two letters or their full call, they all said the full call. (It was pointed out that just two letters is illegal, at least on the first call). I agree with their view. Two letters just wastes time.

The reply to whether it was thought that people were using too much power, brought some amusing answers. The consensus was that everyone was doing it, so why drive a car at 55 mph when everyone else was going at 65? Marty Lane said he did not understand the question, for there was no such problem in Finland Hi Hi! If there was a serious answer, it was that the problem had to be tackled locally, if at all!

Iris and Lloyd then gave their slide show on their trip to Cyprus, ZS4 and Malta. They showed Mike Smedal's new 100 foot tower that booms out the voice of 5B4TI, together with many other interesting photos of their trip. They operated from ZC4 during a 48 hour mock war, under the cover of a black out, for they were not supposed to be on the base at that time!

Iris had recovered well from her broken hip, and it was good to see the two of them in good form as a team again. They will next be visiting all 15 countries in the USSR!

Next followed a tape and slide show by Jim Smith on his trip to Canton Island. Unfortunately Jim could not be present, so W6OSP showed it on Jim's behalf. Canton looked at interesting location, though Jim's accommodation was definitely on the sparse side!

The last talk before lunch was the DX Forum by W6CF from the DXAC. He outlined the voting on various new ones. 4J: 12 for, 3 against. Rotuma: 16 for, none against. Okino Torishima: 10 against, 6 for.

He then outlined pending applications for new country status. Basilica Del Santos, separated from HV by land on the same basis as KL7 from W. Frederick Reef, Banaba Reef, Conway Reef, and he said that 4U1VIC and TP2CE (Council Of Europe), were to be recycled! When will it ever end?

He also advised that although it was ok to QSL direct to USSR stations, we should not under any circumstances put their call sign on the envelope.

There then was a startling revelation that a lot of behind the scenes work had been going on to repatriate the operator of XU1SS to the USA! Apparently at least one of the ops is in danger of becoming a silent key prematurely, and this rescue attempt is due to happen at any moment.

There then was a long discussion on the habits of F6FNU as a

QSL manager, including photos of some of the mutilated cards that had been received from Antoine as only 1 US Dollar had been sent! A lot more was said, but that would form the basis of another article in itself! Personally I have never had a problem with getting a card from Antoine.

On the subject of QSL'ing, it was stated that the Rotuma expedition, which made 34 thousand QSO's, had received 9640 envelopes containing 16,700 QSL's. These envelopes contained \$9507 U.S. plus 3188 IRC's. (I hope so write up a breakdown on my V2 trip shortly).

The afternoon contained a talk on Phase Noise And Intermodes, which I skipped, as W6RJ was holding another cocktail party by the swimming pool before the Banquet in the Grand Ballroom.

I have to say that the cuisine was not up to the standard of previous years, but after dinner and the usual speeches, W6SZN gave a superb presentation on the Rotuma expedition. The island was very beautiful, and because there was possible opposition to the invasion of modern life, they kept their beams down amongst the foliage! It is surprising we heard them as well as we did.

Dinner was followed by a return to the bar/disco, where I and the Italians tried to impress upon the local beauty folk the advantages of being a Ham operator!

After another 4 hour night, we assembled at 8 am for a Brunch, followed by a slide show on the Mellish and Willis expeditions by Ian VE3IEC. These intrepid expeditioners spent three weeks living on quite a small boat, together with the most gorgeous young Australian girl who was part of the crew. (When they stopped at the Met Station on Willis on the way home, she was a very big hit with the three Aussies who were stationed there, for they had not seen a woman in eighteen months!).

Mellish was just another of those forlorn pebble beaches surrounded by treacherous reefs, and infested with large colonies of birds and hermit crabs.

Willis was totally different, being a Government post, and was immaculately kept. Even the grass was mowed regularly, and the highlight of the operation must have been when the team used one of the stations met balloons to haul up a quarter wave top band antenna!

W6MKB then gave a slide show on the joint USA/USSR expedition, USOSU, with some very chilling shots of life in Pevek, together with some marvelous photos of the children out there all wrapped up in the most colorful of clothes and furs.

That over, there was the prize drawing, and it was ironic that a certain W6 who had shown annoyance to me when I had not put him in the log for an 80M contact from G, as I just could not hear him, won the first prize of an Alpha 86 amplifier!

The disappointments over, we said farewell to as many as we could, then Ray drove me back to Granada Hills whilst I slept off a very enjoyable weekend reclined in the front seat under the California sun.

The only other CDXC Member present was Fred K3ZO, so I hope that the next time that I visit Visalia, there will be more of us there. It is certainly worth a visit, so if you happen to be in the States the 3rd week of April, put it in your diary.

NCJ Profile

By Mike Koss, W9SU
PO Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218

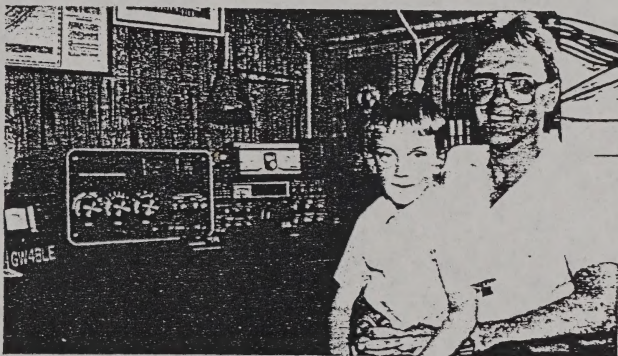
The Wizard of Wales: GW4BLE

Have you heard the one about the unlicensed chap who was so hot to operate his first big contest that he called the government to get a verbal confirmation of his new ticket and call sign before it arrived in the mail? Really, it's a scream, and it was followed up by lots more screaming as 20-year-old Steve Cole, GW4BLE dove headlong into his premiere battle, WAE 1972.

Steve suffers from the serious terminal illness of acute demodulitis (inability of the brain to function properly without regular 20-meter RF treatments), and he has refused all attempts at a permanent cure. But the affliction hasn't stopped him from emerging as a champion contester and well-known DXer at 309/314. And it didn't seem to slow him down as he papered the walls of his very neat shack with 5BDXCC, WAZ, US and New Zealand Counties Awards, Commonwealth DX, and numerous other achievement certificates.

Steve especially appreciates the value of personal initiative, the undefined quality of determination and persistence to set and achieve personal goals. He particularly dislikes DX lists and other artificially-created methods of competitive equalization, or contest devotees who cheat. To BLE, the enjoyment is the competition, as certainly most NCJ readers would quickly concur. And Steve has the trophies to prove the value of his point, like the shiner in his shack for setting the European record with buddy GW3NJW in the ARRL 10-m contest, or for the UK scoring records he posted from GW6GW in 1979/80, or the many UK records he holds for single-oping CQWW events.

Solo is the favorite mode for the Wizard, but he has gladly joined the few multiop groups that expressed the same competi-



Steve Cole, GW4BLE, with junior op Adam.

tive energy and foot-to-the-floor attitude that he finds so compelling. And like a lot of DXtesters nowadays, 10 meters is his favorite field of prey.

Like the calculated organizer that he is, the BLE shack is set up for speed and efficiency. Even the family has been trained to get in on the radio rumble act, with wife Mandy keeping the chief op fed and watered, and junior op Adam standing in as chief cheerleader. Five-year-old Adam Cole is a celebrity too, having appeared in *The ARRL Operating Manual*.

Even away from the rig, communication is still a big part of Steve's life, as his job is with British Telecom's Commercial TVRO

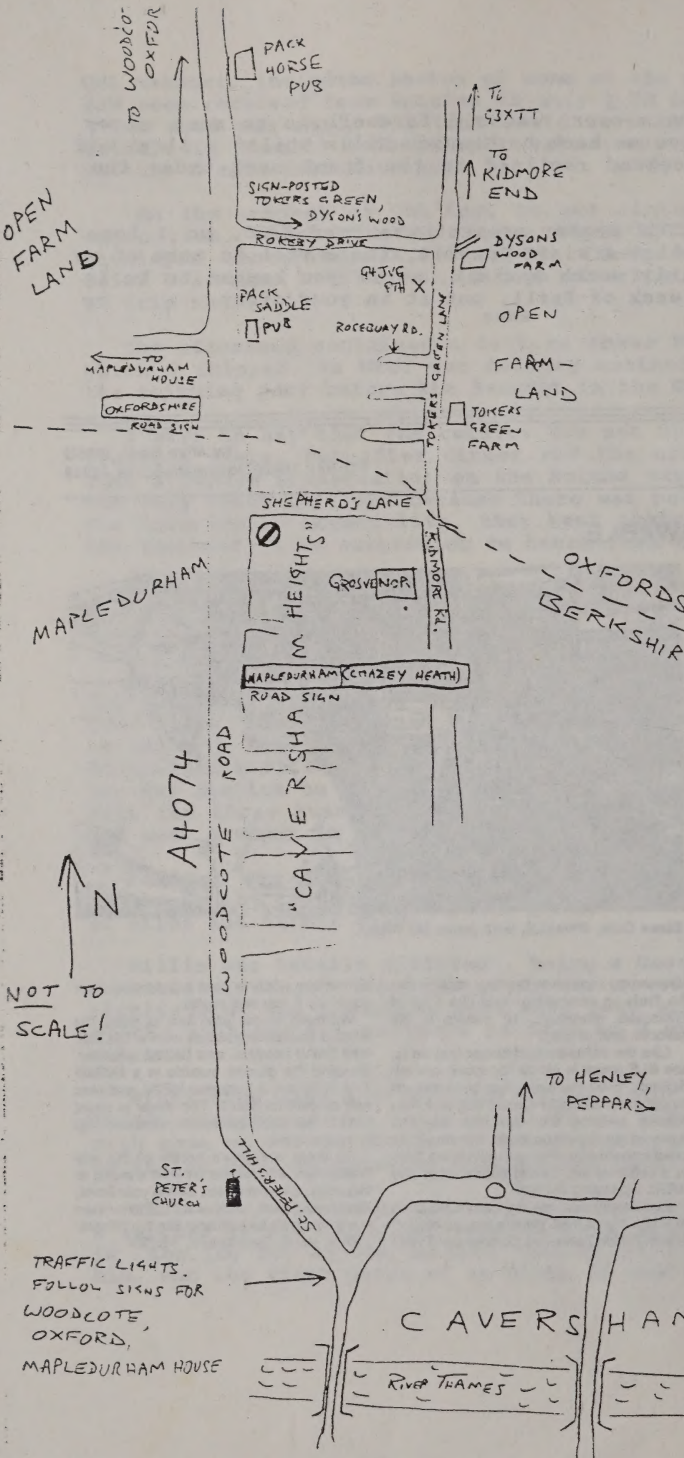
operations. Only a real electronics lover could do it day and night.

Warming up the attic late at night, the Wizard stalks the goodies with a TS930S, Heil BM10 headset, and SB220 amplifier. Shading the garden outside is a HyGain TH5 at 60 feet, a Butternut HF2V, and vees and slopers for 80/40. The tower is shunt fed for 160, and a 2-element 40 meter Yagi is in the works.

So there you go—a profile of the wily Welshman, who leaves us with a moral to this story. Set your goals, define your limits, clench your teeth, and jump in. Sooner than you think you'll be a champ like the Wizard.

Next issue: Dale Green, VE7SV

How to
REACH THE
GROSVENOR
(17TH JUNE)



↑ N
NOT TO
SCALE!

IN READING, FOLLOW S1
FOR CAVERSHAM.